

**Income Maintenance Advisory Committee  
Department of Health and Family Services  
Division of Health Care Financing  
February 17, 2005  
\*Minutes\***

County Attendees: **Jackie Bennett**, Racine Co.; **Lynn Brenner**, Calumet Co.; **Shiela Drays**, Dodge Co.; **Joanne Faber**, Washington Co.; **Tim Gessler**, Winnebasgo Co.; **Liz Green**, Dane Co.; **Corey Hoze**, Milwaukee Co.; **Jane Huebsch**, Marathon Co.; **Ed Kamin**, Kenosha Co.; **Doreen Lang**, Wood Co.; **Chris Machamer**, Waupaca Co.; **Luann Page**, Waukesha Co.; **John Rathman**, Outagamie Co.; **Felice Riley**, Milwaukee Co.; **Amy Roland**, Outagamie Co.; **Cindy Sutton**, Rock Co.

State Attendees: **Gail Chapman**, DHFS/OSF/NRO; **Sara Edmonds**, DHFS/BEM; **John Haine**, DHFS/BEM; **Lisa Hanson**, DHFS/BEM; **Essie Herron**, DHFS/BEM; **Michael Jacob**, WI EDU; **Jim Jones**, DHFS/BEM; **Donna King**, DHFS/BEM; **Bob Martin**, DHFS/BEM; **Mike McKenzie**, DHFS/BEM; **Amy Mendel-Clemens**, DHFS/BEM; **Scott Riedasch**, DHFS/BEM; **Jodi Ross**, DHFS/BEM; **Marilyn Rudd**, DHFS/BEM; **Joanne Simpson**, DHFS/BEM; **Edie Sprehn**, DWD; **Rick Zynda**, DHFS/BEM

Administrative Items

- Marilyn Rudd asked for a change of wording in the MER section of January's IMAC minutes. Original sentence was "Civil rights compliance has asked that DHFS expand the Civil Rights area of the MER to include more limited English speaking recipients." Sentence should read "Civil rights compliance has asked that DHFS expand the Civil Rights area of the MER to gather more information about the services provided to limited English speaking recipients." With that change, minutes were approved.
- The April IMAC meeting will be changed from April 21<sup>st</sup> to April 14<sup>th</sup>, to allow the W2 C&I Committee to meet the day after IMAC as usual. The Program Coordination and IT Subcommittees have agreed to move their meetings from 4/14/05 to 4/21/05 to accommodate this change.
- State reported error rate for FFY '04 - 6.56%  
Milwaukee error rate for FFY '04 - 9.1%  
Balance of State error rate for FFY '04 - 4.5%  
  
State error rate for FFY '05 (Oct and Nov) estimated - 4.1%  
Milwaukee error rate for FFY '05 (Oct and Nov) estimated - 6%  
Balance of State error rate for FFY '05 (Oct and Nov) estimated - 2.6%

The State of WI may be liable for a sanction and the imposition of an 'at risk' penalty associated with our FFY02 error rate, but this will not be finalized until the end of June. Milwaukee and Rock Counties may face a penalty passthrough.

## Subcommittee Reports

### □ IT

Jim Jones explained that the IMAC IT Subcommittee and the C&I IT Subcommittee have merged, meeting together to ensure complete understanding of each other's systems plans.

Amy Mendel-Clemens distributed copies of the CARES Worker Web (CWW) Implementation Administrators Memo, number 05-02. Jim Jones discussed the implementation plan for the CARES Worker Web, Project One, making it clear that the focus of the implementation effort will be on local agency staff who update CARES Application Entry and Client Registration screens, those who supervise/manage them and those who provide technical assistance. This means that other staff who use CARES to input other data (not AE or CR) or who only query CARES will not be granted access or be trained on CWW until after the statewide roll-out is complete. We do not expect (or want) local IM agencies to train these users.

Dane, LaCrosse, and Price counties have been doing a great job as the pilot counties for the Electronic Case Files, and Milwaukee County is working on a roll out plan.

### □ Training and Technical Assistance

- ✓ At the request of Dane County, Deb Solis was replaced by Paulette Penick
- ✓ To keep the valuable voice of the caseworkers represented in this committee, Deanna Tessman from Jefferson County had joined.
- ✓ Because of conflicting priorities for 2 of the co-chairs (Theresa with CWW and Russell with Milwaukee payment accuracy), no meetings were scheduled for January or February
- ✓ Periodic updates have and will go out to the group about CWW training planning and curriculum development status
- ✓ The group is still working on issues while on this hiatus from meetings. The latest issue that we are working on electronically is how to lay the CWW courses out in Pathlore to accommodate the need for both individual and group training approaches.
- ✓ Barring anything unforeseen with CWW curriculum development or training rollout, we plan to resume TATA meetings in March.

Feedback was requested on how best to communicate with everyone regarding CWW issues, changes, etc. that arise during the pilots and the statewide rollout. The counties suggested setting up a subscription process similar to the Admin and Ops Memos distribution list to let the "correct" people know of these changes. It would be assumed that the agencies would then be responsible for making sure the people in their agencies who need the information will subscribe to receive the updates.

Some questions regarding training credits for 2005 have been raised with all the new CARES changes. Each year workers are required to accumulate 12 credits, up to 6 of which can be done this year through CWW training. How many hours each worker accumulates will vary based on job duties and training needs.

Counties also asked if anyone had looked into suspending the ECM credits or applying CWW training towards it. Edie Sprehn will check into this.

### □ Program Policy Coordination and Program Connections

At the March IMAC meeting each of these committees will discuss whether or not to combine these two committees. With or without a merge of subcommittees, county staff has

requested that representation from all 4 programs (FS, MA, CC, and W-2) be present at all meetings to help keep the programs unified.

### 05-07 Biennial Budget

The Governor has completed and sent his 2005-2007 Biennial Budget Request to the Legislature. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau is currently reviewing the budget and beginning its own independent analysis. The Governor's Budget Request includes several provisions that would have an impact on IM program eligibility and administration: You can find out more about the Governor's Budget Request for DHFS programs at:

[http://www.doa.state.wi.us/debf/doc\\_view2.asp?budid=29](http://www.doa.state.wi.us/debf/doc_view2.asp?budid=29)

IMAC reviewed the Income Maintenance program provisions, including:

- Expanded coverage for children leaving out-of-home care (foster care) from their 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.
- Coverage of prenatal care for pregnant women who are non-qualifying aliens through BadgerCare.
- IM Medicaid Quality Assurance:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Party Reviews for Medicaid by local IM agencies (\$'s for IM funding included).
  - Full Case Reviews for the federal Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) program.
  - Centralized processing of IRS and Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) data exchange with CARES.
  - Required verification of information when automated data exchange is not available for Medicaid cases (\$'s for IM funding included).
  - Technical Assistance for local IM agencies for IM programs.
- Elimination of the Medicaid 'Grace' Month and implementation of a Pre-Printed Review Form for Medicaid.
- Implementation of a statewide Transportation Broker.
- Changes to state law to expand Medicaid overpayment collections, including:
  - A new administrative process that would allow for tax intercept to recover Medicaid overpayments.
  - Statutory changes to allow recovery when a recipient does not report nonfinancial changes between application and review.

The IM Quality Assurance proposal that asked for additional IM administrative funding for local agencies that had been included in the DHFS Budget Proposal was not included in the Governor's Biennial Budget Request.

In addition to the Biennial Budget, a special committee focused on Medicaid Reform has been formed in the Legislature. Mark Moody, DHCF Administrator, is working with the committee to help them understand the MA program. After Mark has completed his testimony, we expect the committee to begin allowing others (county agencies, advocates, health care providers, etc.) to testify on ways that Wisconsin's Medicaid could be improved.

## Medicare Part D

The final regulations for this federal program came out about 2 weeks ago and include items such as:

- ◆ Benefit information
- ◆ Drug plans and what they provide
- ◆ Information on moving Medicaid recipients into Medicare part D
- ◆ Low Income Subsidy program eligibility policies
- ◆ Low Income Subsidy Applications will be sent out in May by SSA to people who may be eligible, and letters to those that already are, excluding those on MA, QMD, and SLMB

The Governor's budget included an additional \$900,000 to increase the number of benefit specialists for the Elderly and Disabled programs, and help alleviate the workload of the new Medicare part D program. Counties asked if county levy dollars being used to pay for the benefit specialists will be matched federally in the counties. Jim Jones has found that we will not receive federal Medicaid match for this funding, since the benefit specialist is much wider than Medicaid.

Counties have some concerns over the expectations for their involvement in the process. DHFS will continue to share information about this federal benefit as we receive it from CMS and SSA.